

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Smith et al.
Serial No: 09/976,389
Filed: October 12, 2001
For: LAUNCHER PLATFORM

Group: 3641
Examiner: Chambers, Troy
Docket No: RAY-120J

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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GROUP 3600

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 14, 2003.

Olga Kadish
Olga Kadish

RESPONSE

This Response is in reply to the Office Action mailed August 14, 2003 in the subject application. In response to the Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.



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LANDIORIO & TESKA

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November 14, 2003

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SUBJECT: Applicant: Smith et al.
 Serial No: 09/976,389
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Dear Sir:

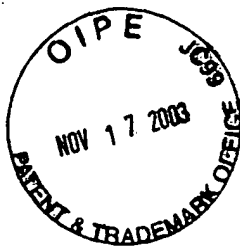
Enclosed is a RESPONSE in reply to the Office Action mailed August 14, 2003 in the subject application.

If for any reason this RESPONSE is found to be INCOMPLETE, or if at any time it appears that a TELEPHONE CONFERENCE with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts at (781) 890-5678.

If any payment during prosecution is found to be incorrect, please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to my Deposit Account No. 09-0002. A copy of this letter is enclosed for use by the Finance Branch in the event that it is necessary to make any charge or credit to my deposit account.

In addition, pursuant to Rule 1.136(a)(3), the Office is hereby authorized to treat any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor. Also, any request

Commissioner for Patents
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or Petition for an Extension of Time notwithstanding an inadvertent reference in the Petition to a shorter period of time is to be treated as requesting the appropriate length of time.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the foregoing by returning the enclosed self-addressed postcard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T. Thompkins, Jr.".

Thomas E. Thompkins, Jr.
Reg. No. 47,136

TET:ok
Enclosures

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Olga Kadish".
Olga Kadish